

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20, 22-28, 30-43 and 45-46 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 22-28, 30-33, 43 and 46 are amended; and Claims 21, 29, 44 and 47 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Independent Claims 1, 43 and 46 are amended to incorporate the features of now-canceled Claims 21 and 28, and Claims 22-28 and 30-33 are amended to depend from Claim 1 instead of Claim 21. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, the title is objected to; Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9-13, 20, 43, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sun et al. (U.S. 6,731,799); Claims 3, 4, 8, 14-19, 21-28, 32-37 and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sun in view of one of Margarey (U.S. 2003/0053661), Sawasaki et al. (U.S. 5,838,365), Itokawa et al. (U.S. 7,024,040), Kondo et al. (U.S. 2003/0156203) and Official Notice; and Claims 29-31 and 38-42 are objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, independent Claims 1, 43 and 46 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent Claim 28 (and intervening Claim 21), and are therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Further, the remaining claims depend from one of independent Claims 1, 43 and 46.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the title, the title is amended to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

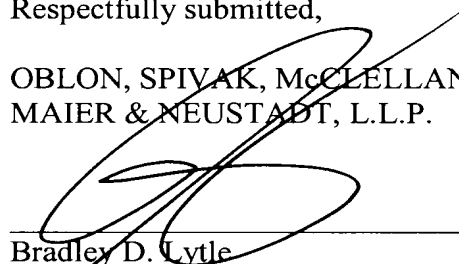
Regarding the rejection of Claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, this claim is canceled thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application including Claims 1-20, 22-28, 30-43 and 45-46 is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/09)

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959